

## **West Side Snowy Range Travel Management Alternatives Summary**

July 2015

- In March 2015, the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District of the Medicine Bow-Rout National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands released a Notice of Proposed Action for the West Side Snowy Range Travel Management Project. More than 250 individuals and organizations commented on the proposal.
- Based on public comments, the project interdisciplinary team made more than 50 modifications to the proposed action and created the “Modified Proposed Action” alternative. Comments were also used to create the “Less Roads” alternative.
- Many commenters stated a desire for roads to remain as is. Some of those “keep as is” comments were addressed in the Modified Proposed Action, many others will be considered as part of the No Action Alternative.
- Alternatives will be analyzed for environmental, social, and economic impacts by the project interdisciplinary team. The analysis will be documented in an environmental assessment that will be available for public comment in Spring 2016.
- The alternatives (No Action, Modified Proposed Action, Less Roads) were designed to provide the District Ranger a wide range of management options for each road segment. For example, based on the effects analysis, the Ranger could choose to keep National Forest System Road (NFSR) 110.1C open to all motor vehicles (No Action Alternative), close the road except for administrative access (Modified Proposed Action), or decommission the road (Less Roads Alternative). As another example, the Ranger could choose to keep NFSR 103 open to all motor vehicles (No Action Alternative and Modified Proposed Action) or to close the road to all motor vehicles (Less Roads); the road would **not** be converted to an ORV trail as proposed in the March 2015 Proposed Action since that alternative is no longer under consideration.

**Table 1. Summary of open and closed roads if an alternative is implemented in full.**

Road	No Action Alternative	March 2015 Proposed Action (Will <u>Not</u> Be Analyzed)	Modified Proposed Action	Less Roads Alternative
Maintenance Level	Miles	Miles	Miles	Miles
Level 2 (High Clearance Vehicles)	322	161	176	150
Level 3 (Suitable for Passenger Cars)	129	116	116	111
Level 4 (Moderate Degree of User Comfort)	65	64	64	64
Level 5 (High Degree of User Comfort)	<1	<1	<1	<1
Total Open Roads	516	341	357	326
Total Level 1 Roads Closed to Public Use	100	191	183	171
Motorized Trail	18	63	49	31

**Table 2. Summary of actions for each alternative.**

Action	No Action Alternative	March 2015 Proposed Action (Will <u>Not</u> Be Analyzed)	Modified Proposed Action	Less Roads Alternative
<b>Open Roads</b>	Miles	Miles	Miles	Miles
Existing Open Road (Leave as Is)	516	330.7	350.7	323.9
Convert Open Road (Level 3) to Open Road (Level 2)	0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Convert Closed Road to Open Road (Level 2)	0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Add Unauthorized Route to System as Open Road (Level 2)	0	8.7	5.2	0.3
Decommission Open Road (Remove From System)	0	57.8	62.5	64.0
<b>Closed Roads</b>				
Existing Closed Road (Leave as Is)	100	63.7	63.4	63.4
Convert Open Road to Closed Road (Level 1)	0	81.9	77.5	106.3
Add Unauthorized Route to System as Closed Road (Level 1)	0	45.3	42.5	0.8
Decommission Closed Road (Remove From System)	0	36.1	31.6	32.0
<b>Motorized Trails</b>				
Existing Trail (Leave as Is)	18	17.5	17.5	17.5
Build New ORV Trail	0	0.7	0.7	0.7
Convert Road to ORV Trail	0	35.0	21.7	7.4
Add Unauthorized Route to ORV Trail System	0	9.7	8.9	5.3
Decommission Trail (Remove From System)	0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Decommission Unauthorized Trail	0	0	0.7	2.4